

Robin Konikoff
449 Laurel St East Haven, CT 06512
203-850-2102
Rkoni89@yahoo.com

Testimony in Support of HB 5618

I am submitting testimony in support of HB 5618. I have been a student at Middlesex Community College since 2010. Before that, I was a student at Gateway Community College. I wasn't happy with Gateway. The teachers lacked enthusiasm and the program didn't meet my needs. I decided to continue my education elsewhere and that's when I decided to apply to Middlesex. Three years later and I'm graduating in December. Middlesex is an amazing school. The Middletown campus is beautiful, the teachers are fantastic, and the variety in curriculum and degree programs offer something for everyone. On top of everything else, our President is constantly striving to make positive changes for our school.

As a student, I appreciate when the need for improvement is recognized. UCONN just received billions of dollars to implement a new science, technology, engineering and mathematics program. They are also getting a new campus and hundreds of new teachers. What about the community colleges? I know Governor Malloy announced at his budget hearing that the community colleges will be getting millions, but that leaves a lot to interpretation. I feel our community colleges are often overlooked and underappreciated. Imagine the possibilities if this bill passes. Middlesex would get millions of dollars, and a smaller, more affordable and less time consuming S.T.E.M. program is implemented. For those students interested in the booming science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields, they would have more than one option for schooling in Connecticut. Not only that, but health and fitness careers are also thriving and we lack a fitness facility on campus. The money could be used to build a new fitness center and therefore Middlesex could be the school of choice for those interested in health and fitness.

Having millions of dollars available to Middlesex would greatly benefit students and facility. More classrooms would be available, our resources would be up to date and our technology could be state of the art. According to collegemeasures.org, Middlesex is ranked 5th out of the 12 community colleges in graduation and transfer rates. That's not terrible, but there is definitely room for improvement. Allow us to improve. Grant us this money and watch Middlesex Community College become an even stronger asset to the community and to the quality of education in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Robin Konikoff